

Appl. No. 09/706,188
Amdt. Dated February 5, 2004
Reply to Office action of August 5, 2003

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the careful examination given to the present application. The application has been reviewed in light of the Office action, and it is respectfully submitted that the application as amended is patentable over the art of record.

Claims 1-6, 9-11, and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Charpentier et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,321,758). Claim 12 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Charpentier.

Claims 1-13 have been canceled. Claims 14-28 have been added, and it is respectfully submitted that claims 14-28 are patentable over the cited art.

Charpentier does not disclose or suggest an electrical/mechanical converter module, which has an input for an electrical signal to be converted having an input impedance and a control input for a control signal to control the input impedance as in recited in the Applicant's claims. Charpentier discloses a receiver 76 that is driven by a unit 74 at which the impedance between the output of the final amplifier 72 and the electrical input of receiver 76 may be switched (col. 4, lines 1-17). Charpentier does not disclose or suggest an electrical/mechanical converter module with controllable input impedance. Thus, in contrast to Charpentier, the module of the present invention may be applied flexibly as a standard module to different hearing devices, and the required input impedance may be controllably selected without the separate switching network as in the Charpentier unit 74. Therefore, Charpentier does not disclose or suggest all the elements of the claimed invention.

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is determined that

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the application is not in a condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to initiate a telephone interview with the undersigned attorney to expedite prosecution of the present application.

If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 16-0820, our Order No. 33109.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 02-05-2004